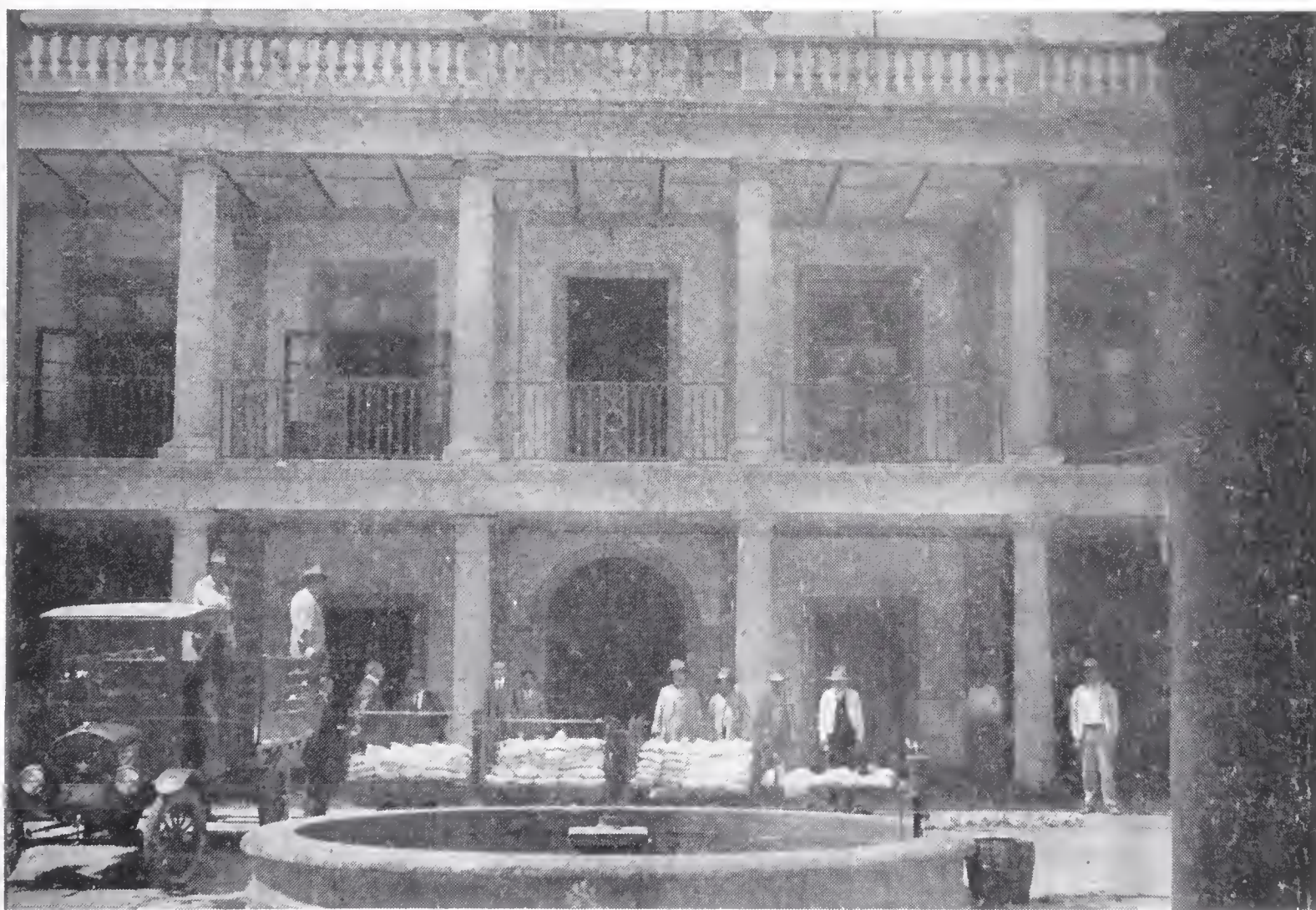


THE COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL



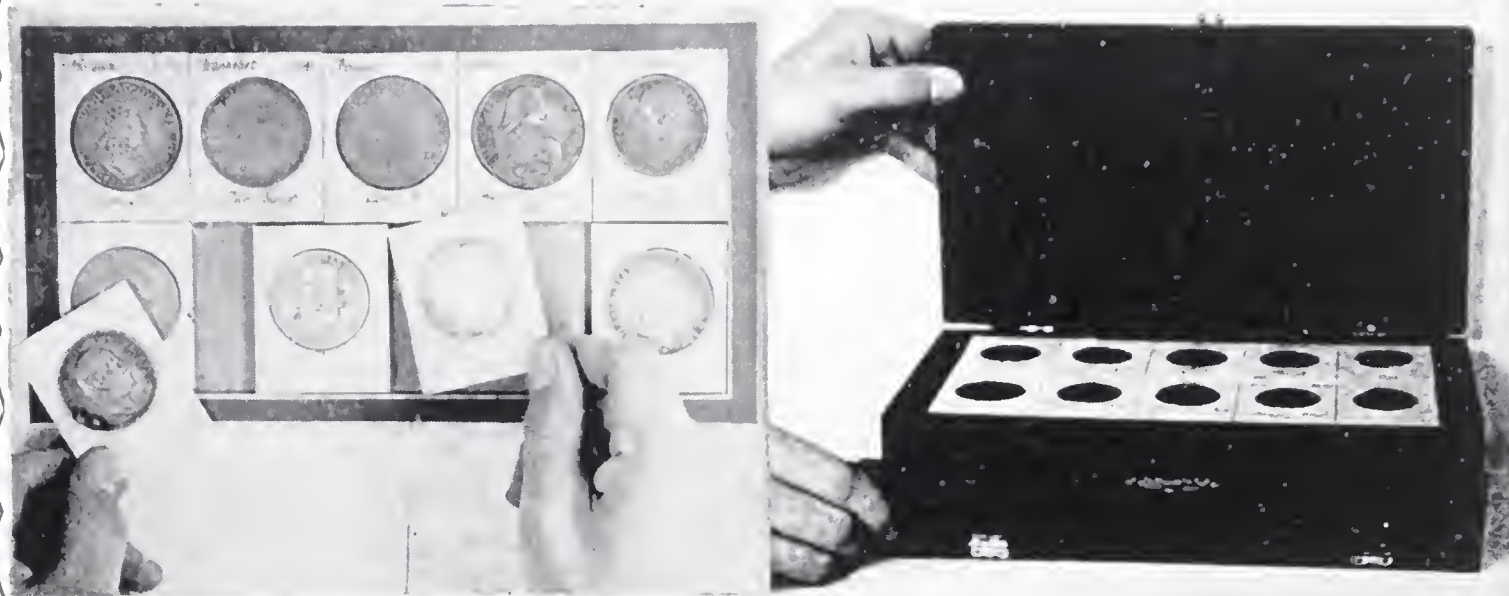
Mexico City—Courtyard of the Mint

MARCH-APRIL 1948

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THE COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL

FOUNDED BY JOHN W. SCOTT IN 1875

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Vol. 15, No. 2

New York March-April, 1948

Whole No. 117

THE CASA DE MONEDA OF MEXICO

By GEORGE W. HUSKER

The Casa de Moneda of Mexico can claim the honor of being one of the oldest in America, having been created jointly with the mints of Potosi in Peru and Santa Fe in Nueva Granada by virtue of a Royal Decree of May 11, 1535.

In 1537 the first silver coins were turned out by the new establishment and within a short time silver pieces had been struck in denominations of eight reales, four reales, three reales, two reales, one real and one-half real. At the outset, the Mint of Mexico, as well as the other new world mints, were prohibited from coining gold or copper but in 1542 the regulations were relaxed and the Viceroy permitted the Mint of Mexico to strike copper coins valued at four and two maravedis.

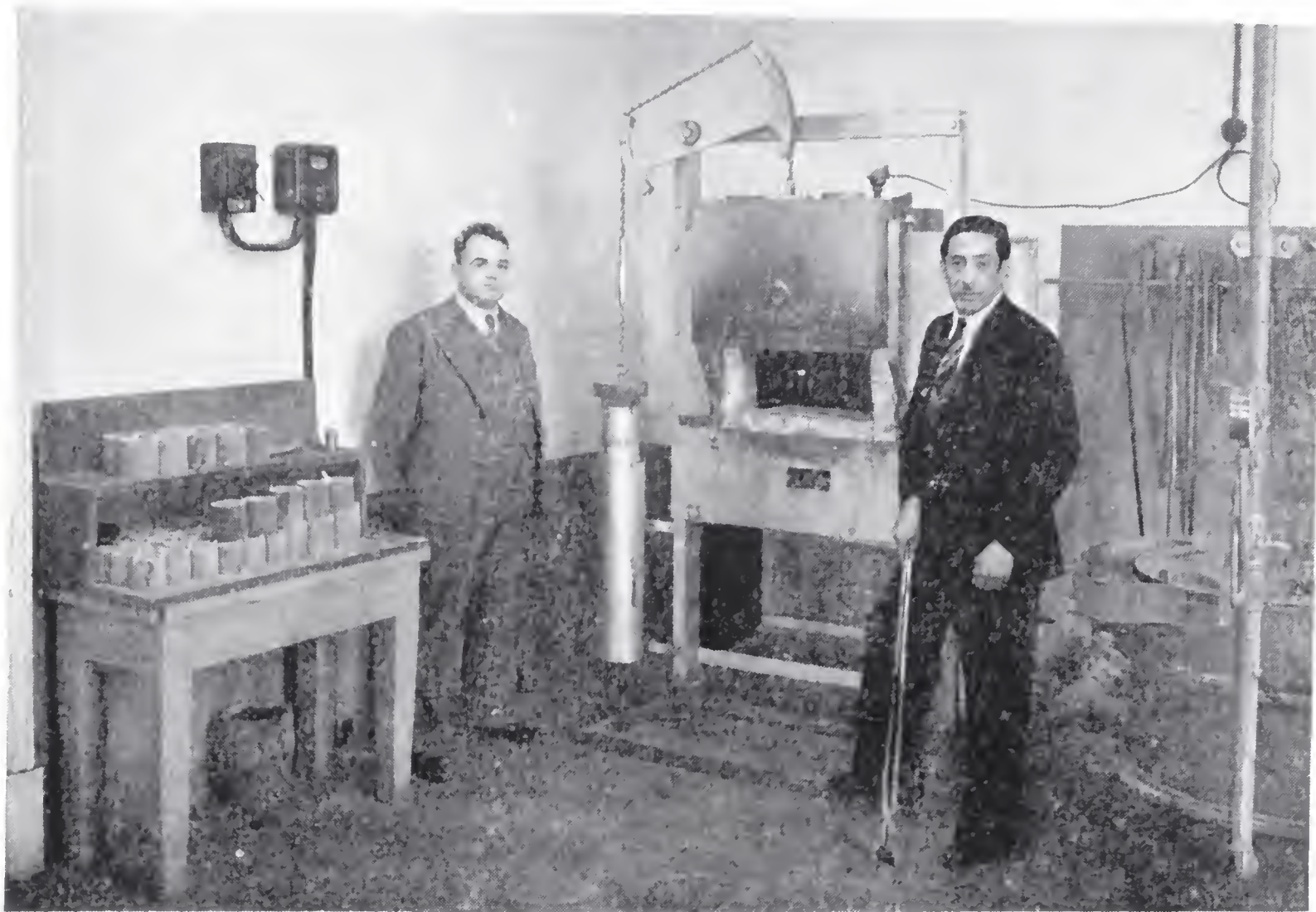
It was extremely difficult to distinguish between the various silver denominations, especially between the four and three real coins, and because of the resulting confusion, the latter piece was discontinued. The copper issues were also suspended within a short time because of their unpopularity among the native population and also because of technical difficulties which arose in their manufacture. It was not until 1814 that copper coins were again minted. In that

year the Viceroy ordered coinage of *cuartillas*, *tlacos* and *pilones* corresponding to 1/4, 1/8 and 1/16 of a real respectively.

A Royal Decree of February 25, 1675 permitted the coinage of gold by the Mexican Mint and the first gold coins were made in 1679. The specifications were based on those employed in the mother country in the coinage of gold, that is, the pieces were of 22 carat fineness and each coin was valued at 440 maravedis. These specifications permitted the gold coins of the Mint of Mexico to circulate on par with the gold coins struck in Spain. The first change in the specifications of the gold coinage took place almost one hundred years later when a Royal Ordinance of March 18, 1771 reduced the fineness of the gold pieces from 916.66 (22 carats) to 875.00 (21 carats). At the same time the fineness of the silver coins was reduced from 916.66 to 902.77.

The Congress of Mexico created a new national metallic currency in 1823 and while the new coins bore the arms of the Republic instead of the portrait of the reigning sovereign, the fineness and weight of the coins were not altered. The standards set by the Royal Ordinance of 1771 were maintained by the

THE CASA DE MONEDA OF MEXICO



TOP—Director Carlos T. Martinez (left) and engraver Manuel L. Negrete with a furnace used for tempering dies.
LOWER A corner of the engraving department. Sub-chief Francisco Rivera Paniagua with a small hand press.

Republic until 1905 when the Law of March 25, 1905 raised the fineness of the gold from 875 to 900 and lowered the fineness of the silver fractional pieces from 902.77 to 800. The peso continued on the standard of 902.77 until World War I when successive reductions in 1918 and 1919 brought the fineness of the peso and its fractions down to 720.

Coinage of copper came to a close in 1899 when the last issues of copper one centavo pieces were made. From that time bronze has been employed for the smaller denominations of one and two centavos and in recent years in coins as high as 20 centavos in value. Nickel was first regularly used in the coinage in 1905 altho for a brief period (1882-1883) a few nickel 5, 2 and 1 centavo pieces had been struck.

The Mint of Mexico has not always occupied the ancient edifice in which it is now found. At first, when it was known as the *Fundicion* (Foundry), it was situated in the *Calle de Monterilla* (now *Calle de 5 de Febrero*). In 1562 the palace of the Cortez family was purchased by the State and seven years later the Mint was moved into those premises. The site is now occupied by the National Museum of Archeology, History and Ethnology altho the street on which the institution is situated still bears the name of *Calle de la Moneda*.

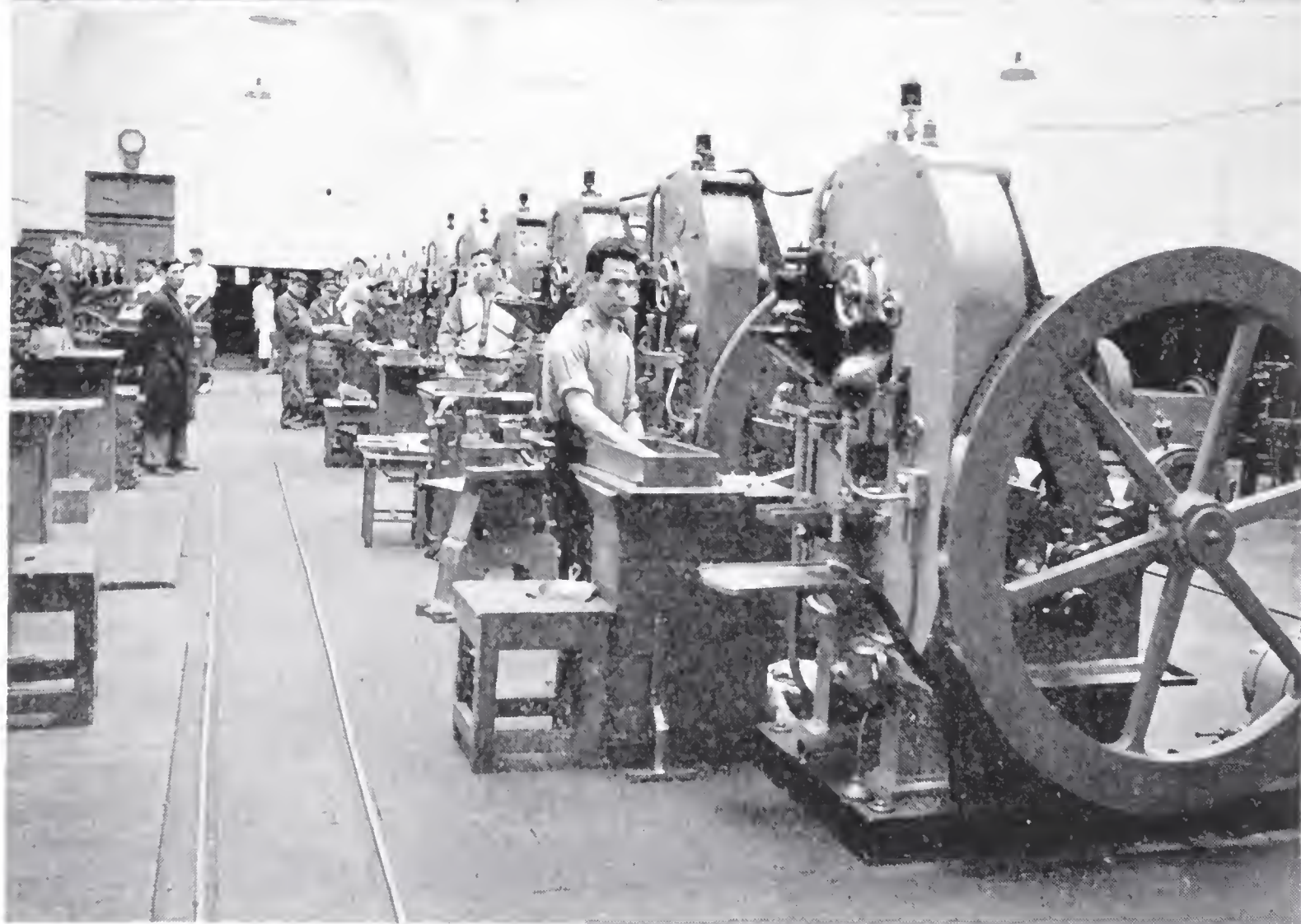
The Mint grew steadily in importance from the very beginning. It was not only the sole mint in the Colony but it was also the agency responsible for the collection of the *quinto real*, a royal tax imposed on the production of precious metals. By 1729 the Mint had outgrown its quarters and it was imperative that relief be given and new quarters be constructed for its expanding operations. So important was the project that Don Nicolas Peinado was sent expressly from Spain as director of construction. Work on the structure began in 1731 and was completed in 1734 with an outlay of \$554,600.00. From 1772 until 1782 construction of an addition to the new building was in progress and this resulted

in an additional expenditure of \$449,893.00. In 1874 the Mint of Mexico was leased under a contract which specified in part that the establishment would surrender its quarters in the Palacio Nacional and move to the Calle del Apartado where it is now located. The alteration of the new premises began in March 1848 and was finished in two years. However the installation of machinery and equipment required additional time and coinage was not turned out of the new quarters until July 1850.

During the Colonial period, that is, from 1537 until 1821, the output of the mint amounted to \$2,151,581,961.00. Of this total \$68,778,411.00 was in gold coins; \$2,082,260,657.00 in silver coins; and \$542,893.00 in copper money. The outstanding years from the standpoint of value of coinage struck were the year 1777 when \$819,214.00 of gold and \$20,705,591.00 of silver coins were minted and the year 1805 when the output reached the figure of \$1,359,814.00 in gold and \$25,806,074.00 in silver. In more recent times notable years for production were 1918 with gold coinage of \$63,915,000.00 and 1932 when \$50,770,000.00 in silver were struck. In 1947 old records for production of silver coinage were broken when the Mint coined \$87,010,000.00 in silver 5 and 1 peso pieces.

The money of the Colonial epoch can be divided into three great groups. The first coinage lasting from 1537 to 1731, was hammered coinage, for the most part of irregular shape and unequal weight. On one side of these pieces are a cross, two castles and two lions; on the other face there appears either two columns or a shield of arms. Starting in 1732 a new type appeared—the pillars design. Minting technique had improved greatly by this time and the coins were a distinct improvement over the early issues. These coins have on one side the arms of Spain and on the other two globes between two pillars or columns with the famous motto "Plus Ultra." The eight reales piece of this coinage was the celebrated pillar

THE CASA DE MONEDA OF MEXICO



TOP — A room in the Coining Department where planchets are stamped.
LOWER — A section of the Coining Department with a row of coining presses.

dollar which was accepted in all of the markets of the world. The third and last type, struck after 1771, featured the effigy of the sovereign on the obverse. The portraits of Charles III, Charles IV and Ferdinand VII appear on these coins which were issued until the period of Independence.

During the wars of Independence (1810 to 1821) provisional mints were set up at Chihuahua, Durango, Guadalajara, Guanajuato, Sombrerete and Zacatecas. After independence had been achieved additional mints were opened at Alamos, Culican, Guadalupe y Calvo, Hermosillo, Oaxaco, Real de Catorce, and San Luis Potosi. The mints of Sombrerete, Guadalupe y Calvo, Real de Catorce and others were in operation for only a brief time but the continued existence of the others had the effect of diminishing the importance of the original mint in the capital city.

From 1847 until 1892 the Mint of Mexico was in the hands of private interests by the terms of the lease previously mentioned. In the latter year the Government rescinded the contracts of lease and resumed operation of the Mint of Mexico as a state enterprize. In March 1893 the mint coined its initial issues under the new government regime.

The operations of the mint have expanded considerably in the present century and particularly since 1905 when the last of the State mints was closed. To give an idea of the immensity of the mint output, the value of the coinage turned out by the Mint of Mexico from June 1, 1905 until December 31, 1945 reached the figure of \$1,342,760,263.55. This figure is broken down as follows—

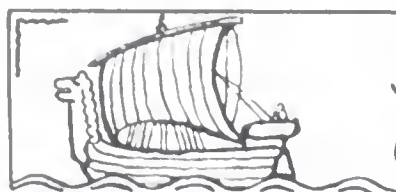
Gold	\$518,964,966.00
Silver	\$749,546,692.70
Copper nickel	\$ 14,733,750.00
Nickel	\$ 1,911,181.70
Bronze	\$ 56,603,673.15
Total	\$1,342,760,362.55

The operations of the Mint are divided between the Administrative and Technical staffs. The Administrative Division is responsible for all functions pertaining to exchange, accounting, statistics, etc. The Technical offices include the Engraving department where the dies are made; the Foundry which prepares the alloys; the Coining Department which receives the ingots from the foundry and then carries on all further operations until the metal is converted into money ready for circulation; the Assay Department which insures that the coins meet with the legal specifications and which also tests the fineness of all precious metals intended for export; and lastly the various workshops which are concerned with maintenance of the buildings, machinery and equipment.

The Coining Department is well equipped with machinery of the most modern type and compares favorably with similar departments in the principal mints of the new and old world. The equipment includes 20 coining presses, 24 rolling presses, 7 annealing ovens, 18 machines for stamping out planchets, 18 automatic balances, etc., etc. With this equipment the Coining Department has sufficient capacity to mint more than a quarter of a million coins of peso size in an eight hour day.

During the past year the Mint carried a heavy schedule due to the abnormal demand for the new five and one peso pieces authorized in 1947. Over 80 million pieces of money were coined during the year in denominations as follows:

Denomination	Number of pieces struck in 1947	Value
5 peso-silver	5,110,000	\$25,550,000.00
1 peso-silver	61,460,000	61,460,000.00
1 centavo-bronze	13,445,000	134,450.00
Total	80,015,000	\$87,144,450.00



STORY AND DESIGN OF MODERN COINS



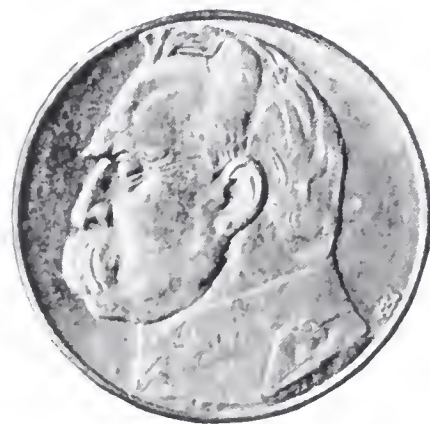
POLAND

Coins of the World No. 17

The military career of John III Sobieski reached its apex on September 12, 1683 when he led the charge of Polish cavalry which routed the Ottoman armies gathered to besiege Vienna. The glorious victory not only lifted the siege of the city but also liberated the whole of Hungary from the yoke of the invading army. This 10 zloty silver piece (CW No. 17), picturing the cloaked and hatted commander-in-chief of Poland's military forces, was issued in 1933 in commemoration of that stirring event.

In his earlier days Sobieski had, at times, acted in such a manner as to prejudice the welfare of his native land. He had accepted bribes from Louis XIV of France and had openly conspired against Michael, the duly elected King of Poland. However when his country was imperilled by the Eastern invaders he rehabilitated himself in the eyes of his countrymen by a series of brilliant victories over the Turks, culminating in the campaign which relieved Vienna.

These 10 zloty pieces, heretofore not minted, were created by a decree of August 27, 1932. The silver pieces authorized by this legislation were smaller in size than the silver coins previously struck.

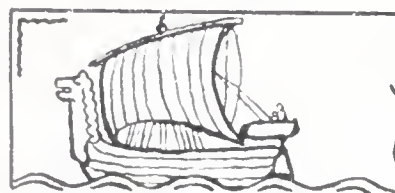


POLAND

Coins of the World No. 19

This 10 zloty piece (CW No. 19) bearing the effigy of Josef Pilsudski was issued in 1934. The absence of any obverse legend except a small date near the shoulder, focuses attention on the powerful rendition of the portrait of the old warrior, then in his 67th year.

The lifetime of Pilsudski had been devoted to the cause of Polish freedom. World War I found him fighting with the Austrian and German armies in opposition to the Czar but his spectacular successes linked with his nationalistic ambitions brought on him the disfavor of the High Command. Pilsudski and his Polish legionnaires refused to take the oath of allegiance to the Central Powers in 1917 whereupon he was stripped of his command and jailed. The Socialist revolution in Germany set him free and he took upon himself the task of establishing a Polish government, organizing its army and acting as temporary head of the State. When a constitutional president was elected in 1922 Pilsudski retired. A coup d'etat of May 1926 brought him back on the scene as virtual dictator. He assumed the offices of Premier and Minister of Military Affairs and retained these posts until his death in 1935.



STORY AND DESIGN OF MODERN COINS



AUSTRIA

Coins of the World No. 7

On February 28, 1934 the Austrian Cabinet decided to withdraw the 5 schilling paper notes and to issue 5 schilling silver coins. Several official reasons were cited: (1) Small denomination notes were a temporary expedient growing out of the War; (2) Replacement costs made small notes more costly to keep in circulation than coins; (3) Paper notes of less than 10 schillings were contrary to Austrian tradition; (4) The trend thruout Europe was to discard small notes in favor of metallic currency. Accordingly Federal Decree of July 25, 1934 ordered the issuance of a 5 schilling piece, 0.835 fine, having a gross weight of 15 grams.

The obverse of the coin (CW No. 7) pictures the Madonna of Mariazell, a miracle-working statue enshrined in a chapel in a tiny village in Styria. The image of the Virgin, scarcely 18 inches high and carved in lime tree wood, had been an object of veneration for centuries and had caused the village of Mariazell to become the most frequented sanctuary in all of Austria. The image of the Virgin was presented to Mariazell in 1157 and is now enshrined in a chapel lavishly adorned with objects of silver, gold and other costly materials.

March-April, 1948



AUSTRIA

Coins of the World No. 17

Austria's Federal Monetary Law of December 20, 1924 established a new monetary unit, the schilling. It also provided for a new silver currency with a two schilling piece as the highest denomination. The 2 schilling coins struck in accordance with this legislation were all commemorative pieces (Gedenkmunzen) and they form an attractive series of ten coins, this first dated 1928 and the last 1937.

The latter coin (CW No. 17) commemorates the 200th anniversary of the Karlskirche in Vienna. At the same time the piece honors the memory of the Viennese architect, Fischer von Erlach, the designer of the impressive structure. Fischer von Erlach, who brought the Austrian baroque style to its perfection, is said to have been largely instrumental in giving Vienna its individual character thru the beautiful buildings created by his genius. The facade of the Karlskirche is depicted on the obverse of the coin. This view shows to advantage the huge oval dome which is one of the remarkable features of the church and also the pillared portico flanked by two tall columns. The latter are carved with reliefs of incidents in the life of the patron saint and were probably inspired by the column of Trajan in Rome.

EARLY AMERICAN MEDALS



EARLY AMERICAN MEDALS

CAPTAIN ROBERT HENLEY

(Victory of Lake Champlain)

Bust of Captain Henley, in uniform, to right. In Latin: "Robert Henley, commander of the Eagle. The palm of bravery will flourish forever."

The reverse design is similar to the Macdonough and Cassin medals.

A Virginian by birth (1783), Henley entered the navy as a midshipman and served under Truxton on the *Constella-*

tion. He was second in command to Macdonough in the victory on Lake Champlain, and for his conduct in this action received the gold medal shown. In 1825 he was made captain and served in the home squadron and in the West Indies for several years. He died on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, in 1828.

LIEUTENANT STEPHEN CASSIN

(Victory of Lake Champlain)

Bust of Lieutenant Cassin, in uniform, to right. In Latin: "Stephen Cassin, commander of the Ticonderoga. What region of earth is not full of our works."

Reverse is similar to the Macdonough and Henley medals.

Born in Philadelphia in 1783, Cassin entered the navy as a midshipman in

1800, and saw service off Tripoli. In 1807 he was a lieutenant and for the action on Lake Champlain was given his masters rank and a gold medal. He became a captain in 1825 and for several years was head of the navy yard at Washington D. C. He died there in 1857.

CAPTAIN LEWIS WARRINGTON

(Capture of the *Epervier*)

Bust of Captain Warrington, in uniform, to right. Latin inscription: "Lewis Warrington, American naval commander."

Reverse—Latin inscription: "Prepared to conquer or die for his country." Naval action between the U. S. sloop-of-war *Peacock* (18 guns) and the British brig-of-war *Epervier* (18 guns). The *Peacock* is firing her broadside, and the *Epervier* has lost her main topmast. In exergue: Between the American vessel *Peacock* and the English vessel *Epervier* March 29, 1814. Size 40, designed by Furst.

Born in Williamsburg, Virginia in 1782, Lewis Warrington became a midshipman in the navy in 1800, and served in Tripoli under Preble. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1807 and to master-commandant in 1813. The engagement between his vessel *Peacock* and the British *Epervier* won him the gold medal shown, and the promotion to captain. He later served in the Naval Board. In 1842 he was made chief of the ordnance and hydrographic bureau of the Navy Department. He died while in this service in 1851.

EARLY AMERICAN MEDALS



CAPTAIN JOHNSTON BLAKELEY

(Capture of the Reindeer)

Bust of Captain Blakeley, in uniform, to right. In Latin: "Johnston Blakeley, Captain of the American Federal Republic's vessel *Wasp*."

Reverse—In Latin "Alas! twice conqueror, thy country laments and applauds thee." Naval action between the U. S. sloop-of-war *Wasp* (18 guns) and the British *Reindeer* (18 guns). The *Wasp*, to windward, is firing her port broadside. The British vessel is striking her colors. Exergue: In Latin: Between the American vessel *Wasp* and the English vessel *Reindeer* June 28, 1814. Size 40, designed by Furst.

Johnston Blakeley was born in Ire-

land and brought to this country by his parents when an infant. The family settled in North Carolina, but Blakeley's parents both died when he was still a child. As a midshipman he served in the Tripoli campaign and in 1813 as a lieutenant he commanded the *Enterprise*, and later in the same year became master-commandant of the *Wasp*. For his distinguished action in fighting and destroying the British *Reindeer*, he was given the gold medal illustrated. A short time later the *Wasp*, under his command, was cruising off the French coast, and apparently became lost at sea, as no further news of her was ever reported.

CAPTAIN JAMES BIDDLE

(Capture of the Penguin)

Bust of Captain Biddle, in uniform, to right. Inscription: "The Congress of the U. S. to Capt. James Biddle, for his gallantry good conduct and services."

Reverse—The inscription: "Capture of the British Ship *Penguin* by the U. S. ship *Hornet*." Naval action between the *Hornet* (18 guns) and the *Penguin* (19 guns). The *Hornet* is raking the *Penguin* and the British vessel has lost her main-top-gallant-mast. In the distance is the peak of Tristan d'Acunha. Exergue: Off Tristan d'Acunha March XXIII MDCCCXV. The medal is size 40, designed by Furst.

A native of Philadelphia, Biddle entered the navy as a midshipman in 1800 and served in the Mediterranean with Captain Bainbridge. He was wrecked

in the *Philadelphia* and was kept prisoner for almost two years in Tripoli. In 1812 as first lieutenant of the *Wasp* he saw the action of the capture of the *Frolic*. For his conduct he was then promoted to master-commandant and while in this command on the *Hornet* captured the *Penguin* and was awarded the gold medal shown. In the same year he was promoted to captain. During 1830-32 he commanded in the Mediterranean and from 1838-42 was governor of the Naval Asylum in Philadelphia. In 1845 he again went to sea as commander of the East India squadron. During the Mexican war he saw duty off the West Coast of Mexico. He died in his native Philadelphia in 1848.

CAPTAIN CHARLES STEWART

(Capture of the Cyane and of the Levant)

Bust of Captain Stewart, in uniform, to right. In Latin, the inscription: "Charles Stewart, Captain of the American vessel Constitution."

Reverse In Latin: "He snatched victory from two vessels with one." Naval action between the Constitution (52 guns) and the British frigates Cyane (34 guns) and Levant (21 guns). The Constitution, to windward, is opening her port battery on the Levant; both British vessels are returning her fire from their starboard batteries. Exergue: (in Latin) "Between the American vessel Constitution and the English vessels Levant and Cyane on the 20th of February, 1815." Medal is size 40, designed by Furst.

Charles Stewart was born in Philadelphia in 1778 and went from the merchant service into the navy as a

lieutenant in 1798. He served in the West Indies and in the Tripoli campaign. His vessel, the Siren, was part of the escort of Decatur's "Intrepid" on her mission to Tripoli to blow up the captured Philadelphia. For Stewart's part in this action he was promoted to master-commandant and in 1806 he became captain. His brilliant strategy in the action against the two British vessels, won him the gold medal illustrated. During the years 1816 to 1823 he commanded in both the Mediterranean and in the Pacific. He served on the Naval Board and later commanded the Navy Yard at Philadelphia. In 1857 he was placed on the retirement list but was made active again in 1859 as senior flag officer. In 1862 he was appointed rear-admiral on the retired list, and he died at Bordentown, New Jersey in 1869.

Domestic Coinage Executed, by Mints,
During the Month of January, 1948

Denomination	Philadelphia	San Francisco	Denver
SILVER			
Half dollars			
Quarter dollars	\$424,000.00		\$488,000.00
Dimes			
MINOR			
Five-cent pieces	149,200.00		
One-cent pieces	329,800.00	\$132,000.00	144,950.00

1947 COINS WITH THE MAPLE LEAF

Canada along with all other parts of the British Empire, is making a change in the obverse die of all its coins to leave off from the King's title "et ind imp" (and Emperor of India).

The new dies for the Canadian coins are not yet ready. Because of the demand for 10c and 25c pieces, the Mint has struck a small quantity of these with the 1947 dies and with that date. These coins can be identified from the regular issue of 1947 by a miniature maple leaf which follows after the date.

It may be necessary to strike other coins with a similar designation from the old dies and if so they will be similarly marked. As yet it is not known how many denominations will be struck in this way or what the quantities will be but the present indications are that the issue will be extremely small.

It will be realized that this situation is very similar to that which led to the issuance of the "dot" coins of 1936 which were struck in the denominations of 1c, 10c and 25c. Because of the fact that numismatists did not realize that this latter variety existed until approximately last year, very few of them are to be found in collections. A 25c piece in considerably worn condition was sold recently for \$4.00. This piece in uncirculated condition would readily bring today at least \$8.00. The 1c and 10c pieces which were struck in somewhat larger numbers have proven even more difficult to locate, and very few collections contain either of these other denominations.

1921—50c Piece

As I previously mentioned, this coin is proving to be the most rare in the entire regular series of Canada. I now suggest a corrected valuation for this

coin of \$35 in fine condition and \$50 in uncirculated condition.

I know of only four of these pieces being in collections Mr. Octave Pelletier, Professor Prince, the Chateau de Ramezay, and my personal collection each contain one.

1921—5c Piece

This rare coin continues to be in tremendous demand among collectors of the regular Canadian series. Mr. Norman Mason of Toronto tells me that he has arranged to have a duplicate of this coin auctioned at the American Numismatic Association Convention this coming summer. It will be most interesting as to what price it will bring as never before has it appeared in auction on this continent. While the known number of these pieces in collections is at least three times that of the 1921 50c pieces, it is likely that it will bring a price at action fully up to if not in excess of the valuation as given in the last issue of "THE COINS AND TOKENS OF CANADA." It is a very rare piece which will greatly enhance in value as the collecting of this series continues to increase.

Study of 17,000 Cents

Mr. G. R. L. Potter, member of the Ottawa Coin Club, recently undertook the study of an accumulation of 17,000 small Canadian cents. This study only yielded the following number of the scarcer dates:

1922	.....	10
1923	.....	7
1924	.....	8
1925	.....	9
1926	.....	17
1927	.....	29
1930	.....	31

As will be appreciated the number found was in fairly close ratio to the number coined in those years to the total number of small cents that have been minted. In this accumulation there wasn't a single example of the 1936 "dot" cent.

W. C. Ronson is Named Canada's Mint Master

W. C. Ronson, who for ten years has been Assistant Deputy Finance Minister, was named this last year new Master of the Royal Canadian Mint. This post was vacant for three years following the death of Mr. H. E. Ewart.

Barrett Token

This token listed by Breton as 747, comes in two varieties— a short and long "I" on reverse. The difference in the length of the figure is very noticeable.

Porcheron Tokens

For years these tokens have been a

mystery to many collectors, although well-known because of considerable quantities that were issued. They all have on the obverse the name "E. D. Porcheron" with the initials "B. B." in the center and Montreal shown as the city of issuance. They come with a series of distinctive reverses. They are almost invariably struck in lead. These tokens have but little interest as they never served any legitimate purpose.

A well-known Canadian numismatist of years ago secured a punch used by Mr. Porcheron to stamp his plug tobacco which he manufactured. This punch was employed as an obverse die and was used in conjunction with a number of improvised dies including medallie dies to strike the many varieties of these tokens. They were used by this collector to exchange for other varieties of Canadian tokens. This was during a period when Canadian token collecting was at its height and when anything resembling a token was greatly sought after by collectors of the Canadian series.

Domestic Coinage Executed, by Mints, During the Month of February, 1948

Denomination	Philadelphia	San Francisco	Denver
SILVER			
Half dollars	.....	.....	.....
Quarter dollars	\$431,000.00	.....	\$494,000.00
Dimes	.....	.....	.....
MINOR			
Five-cent pieces	173,400.00	.....	.....
One-cent pieces	381,000.00	\$142,000.00	148,500.00

COINS OF THE WORLD

NICARAGUA

The most recent coinage struck for Nicaragua differs in weight and diameter from the 1943 issue. The alloy is likewise different from the earlier coins.

Coinage struck in accordance with Legislative Decree No. 264 of 25 August, 1943. Coins dated 1943. Composition 70% copper; 30% zinc.

Denomination	Weight	Diameter
25 Centavos	7.5 gr.	27mm
10 Centavos	5.5 gr.	24mm
5 Centavos	3.75 gr.	21mm
1 Centavo	2.5 gr.	18mm

Coinage struck in accordance with Legislative Decree No. 7 of April 18, 1947. Coins dated 1946. Composition 75% copper; 25% nickel.

50 Centavos	8 gr.	26mm
25 Centavos	5 gr.	23mm
10 Centavos	4 gr.	20mm
5 Centavos	3 gr.	17mm

GUATEMALA

No coinage was struck by Guatemala during the years 1940 to 1942. In succeeding years the following coins were minted.

- 25 centavos—1944, 45, 46, 47.
- 10 centavos—1943, 44, 45, 46, 47.
- 5 centavos—1943, 44, 45, 46, 47.
- 2 centavos—1944, 45.
- 1 centavo—1943, 45, 46, 47.
- 1/2 centavo—1946.

The coinage is governed by these standards—

Denomination	Alloy	Weight	Diameter
50 centavos*	silver 720	11.94 gr.	31mm
	copper 280		
25 centavos	copper 280	8.33 gr.	27mm
10 centavos	copper 280	3.33 gr.	21mm
5 centavos	copper 280	1.66 gr.	16mm
2 centavos	copper 700	6.00 gr.	27mm
	zinc 300		
1 centavo	zinc 300	3.00 gr.	21mm
1/2 centavo	zinc 300	1.50 gr.	16mm

* Coinage of the 50 centavo piece is authorized by Decree of November 29, 1947 (No. 464). As yet, however, no pieces have been struck.

HONDURAS

A recent dispatch informs us that no issues of national coinage were struck for Honduras since 1939. As a result an extreme shortage of small currency became apparent as early as 1942. This hampered business to such an extent that in 1943 the government was prevailed upon to authorize business firms to import United States half dollars (U. S. \$0.50 equals 1 Lempira) and ten cent pieces. More recently legislation was enacted to permit the import of U. S. five cent coins. These United States coins circulate side by side with the national coinage of Honduras.

PORTUGAL

The following is a resume of the coinage struck for Portugal since 1942.

- 10 Escudos—1942.
- 5 Escudos—1942, 43, 44, 46, 47.
- 2 1/2 Escudos—1942, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47.
- 1 Escudo—1942, 45, 46, 47.
- 50 Centavos—1944, 45, 46, 47.
- 20 Centavos—1943, 44, 45, 46.
- 10 Centavos—1942, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47.

The coins are minted according to these specifications:

Denomination	Metal	Weight	Diameter
10 Escudos	Silver 835	12.5 gr.	30mm.
	Copper 165		
5 Escudos	Silver 650	7.0 gr.	25mm.
	Copper 350		
2 1/2 Escudos	Copper 350	3.5 gr.	20mm.
1 Escudo	Copper 610	8.0 gr.	26.8mm.
	Nickel 190		
	Zinc 200		
50 Centavos	Zinc 200	4.5 gr.	22.8mm.
20 Centavos	Copper 950	3.0 gr.	20.5mm.
	Tin 20		
10 Centavos	Zinc 30		
	Zinc 30	2.0 gr.	17.5mm.

PORTUGUESE COLONIES

TIMOR

This is the first twentieth century coinage for this colony.

- 50 Avos Silver 1945 Obv. COLONIA DE TIMOR. Value and wreath. R. Arms and globe on cross.
- 20 Avos Bronze 1945 Obv. Head of Republic. R. Arms and value.
- 10 Avos Bronze 1945 Obv. Value and wreath. R. Arms.

PORTUGUESE GUINEA

5th Centenary of the Discovery of Portuguese Guinea.

- 1 Escudo Bronze 1946 Obv. V CENTENARIO DA DESCOBERTA GUINE. Crowned shield. R. REPUBLICA PORTUGUESA 1446-1946.
- 50 Centavos Bronze 1946 Similar.

PORTUGUESE INDIA

Recent issues:

- 1 Rupia silver 1947.
- 1/2 Rupia copper nickel 1947.
- 1/4 Rupia copper nickel 1947.
- 1 Tanga Bronze 1947.

MOZAMBIQUE

Dates not shown in Coins of the World.

- 2 1/2 Escudos silver 1942.
- 1 Escudo Nickel bronze 1945, 46.
- 50 Centavos Nickel bronze 1945.

AUSTRIA

The new coins of schilling currency struck in accordance with Federal Law of July 25, 1946 have now been issued.

Technical details are

Denomination	Alloy	Diameter	Weight
2 schillings	Alum.(98.5%) Mag.(1.5%)	28mm	2.8 gr.
1 schilling	Mag.(1.5%)	25mm	2.0 gr.
50 groschen	Mag.(1.5%)	22mm	1.4 gr.
10 groschen	Zinc	21mm	3.5 gr.

The coins may be described as follows--

- 2 Schillings: REPUBLIK OSTERREICH, Federal coat of arms. R. Value surrounded by grain, grapes and vine leaves.
- 1 Schilling: Federal coat of arms and date. R. REPUBLIK OSTERREICH, a striding sower and value.
- 50 Groschen: REPUBLIK OSTERREICH, Federal coat of arms. R. FUNFZIG GROSCHEN and date; on either side, two ears of grain.
- 10 Groschen: REPUBLIK OSTERREICH, Federal coat of arms. R. Value and date, beneath, decoration of lion's foot and gentian.

NORWAY

The coinage struck for Norway during the War years consists of the following:

Copper-Nickel (holed)

- 1 Krone—1939, 40, 46, 47.
- 50 Ore—1939, 40, 41, 45, 46, 47.
- 25 Ore—1939, 40, 46, 47.
- 10 Ore—1939, 40, 41, 45, 46, 47.

Zinc (no hole)

- 50 Ore—1941, 42, 43, 44, 45.
- 25 Ore—1943, 44, 45.
- 10 Ore—1941, 42, 43, 44, 45.

Bronze

- 5 Ore—1939, 40, 41.
- 2 Ore—1939, 40.
- 1 Ore—1939, 40, 41.

Iron

- 5 Ore—1941, 42, 43, 44, 45.
- 2 Ore—1943, 44, 45.
- 1 Ore—1942, 43, 44, 45.

WERE MATCHES USED AS CURRENCY IN THE ARCTIC GOLD RUSH

By PHARES O. SIGLER

Most collectors of odd and curious monies are at one time or another accused of including many purely barter items in their collections so it may seem strange for one such collector to present arguments that a commodity allegedly used as currency was not in fact so used. The conception of this article dates back to pre-war days when I purchased several blocks of Chinese matches from a numismatic dealer in the middle west who informed me that they were used as currency during the Alaskan gold rush. Later a prolonged trip to the Arctic gave me time and opportunity to personally look into the matter.

These old-fashioned matches are made in blocks without complete severance so that the non-lighting ends of the matches are held together at the bottom in such a way that one can be taken off when needed without disturbing the others. Each block holds about 100 of these slender matches.

Any sportsman who has camped many miles from the nearest inhabitant and then found himself without matches can readily understand their importance to the hardy pioneers who went in search of Arctic gold. Wickersham¹ says of these men: "Before leaving the cabin for the day's work, or a visit to a neighbour, or a trip to town, the occupant would invariably cut enough shavings from the dry wood always in the shelter of the door, and arrange the shavings and wood in the stove ready for a quick fire, and leave a square block of matches in sight, so that one coming in, sometimes almost perishing from cold, or wet from the treacherous overflow of water beneath

the snow, might make a fire with the least possible waste of time."

Another author² states: "Nothing in this country can take the place of the old-fashioned sulphur match.***A block of a hundred will take up much less space than 50 of the other kind of match, and the blocks may be freely carried in any***pocket without fear of accidental ignition". Many prospectors were severely injured by falling in slippery ice and igniting matches carried in their hip pockets.

From the foregoing it is obvious that these matches were in great demand during the gold rush but, of course, it doesn't follow that they were used as money. We learn that one miner who had saved a few of these Chinese matches sold them "one block to a man, four bits a throw"³. Peary⁴ lists matches among the trade articles he used to bargain with Eskimos for sled dogs. Another visitor to the Arctic⁵ reports the following conversation between two travellers he met there: "'Bring any trading goods with you?' 'Mostly matches', he replied. 'That's what these people (Eskimo) want more'n anything.'" Again we find that: "A young man from the south end of the island, who had left a pair of magnificent walrus tusks with the trader in March, received as payment in August the following: 2 squares of matches (100 each), 1 pound of leaf tobacco (value 30 cents), and 2 needles."⁶

The above quoted statements are the only mention of matches that I was able to find in numerous books on Arctic history and the conclusion is clear that, although they were a valuable commodity

and trade article, they were not a media of exchange. Needless to say there is enough other "funny money" left in the world that collectors should not feel too disappointed at the result of our inquiry. They can either give their matches to a match collector, or use them as a foundation for a new hobby. Personally, I would recommend the former method of disposition.

¹ Wickersham, James. — Old Yukon. Wash. D. C. 1938. p. 53.

² Stuck, Hudson. — Ten Thousand Miles With a Dog Sled. p. 242.

³ Davis, Mary Lee. — Uncle Sam's Attic. 1930. p. 338.

⁴ Peary, Robert E. — The North Pole. N. Y. 1910. p. 73.

⁵ Irwin, David. — One Man Against the North. N. Y. 1941. p. 216.

⁶ Department of Interior. Census Office. Report on the Population and Resources of Alaska at the 11th Census. 1890. Wash. D. C. 1893. p. 115.

TIN MONEY

In his dealings with the Indians, General Sutter used his own tokens of tin, with a star in the middle and holes punched around the outside of the ring, each hole representing a day's work.

Train, Arthur. The Story of Everyday Things. N. Y. 1941. p. 316.

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Domestic Coinage Executed, by Mints, During the Month of December, 1947.

Denomination	Philadelphia	San Francisco	Denver
SILVER			
Half dollars—Regular			
Half Dollars—Booker T. Wash.		\$50,008.50	\$50,008.50
Quarter dollars	\$1,779,000.00	353,000.00	975,700.00
Dimes	1,041,000.00	984,000.00	790,500.00
MINOR			
Five-cent pieces	251,800.00		8,800.00
One-cent pieces	98,050.00	33,000.00	104,000.00

Coinage Executed for Foreign Governments

Mint	Country	Metal	Denomination	No. of Pieces
Philadelphia	Dominican Rep.	Bronze	1 Centavo	3,000,000
Philadelphia	Saudi Arabia	Silver	1 Riyal	5,000,000
San Francisco	Philippines	Silver	1 Peso (McArthur com.)	100,000
San Francisco	Philippines	Silver	50 Centavos (McArthur com.)	200,000
				8,300,000

Domestic Coinage Executed, by Mints, During the Calendar Year 1947

Denomination	Philadelphia	San Francisco	Denver
SILVER			
Half dollars—Regular	\$2,047,000.00		\$1,950,300.00
Half dollars—Commemorative: Booker T. Washington	50,008.50	\$50,008.50	50,008.50
Quarter dollars	5,639,000.00	1,383,000.00	3,834,600.00
Dimes	12,152,000.00	3,484,000.00	4,683,500.00
MINOR			
Five-cent pieces	4,750,000.00	1,236,000.00	1,891,100.00
One-cent pieces	1,905,550.00	990,000.00	1,947,500.00

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Nickel Five Cents. 1883-1912. Liberty head. Includes both varieties of 1883. Proofs.

Nickel Five Cents. 1913-1938. Indian head. Includes all dates and mints. Uncirculated with exception of 1926 S, 1927 S very fine.

Nickel Five Cents. 1938-1947. Includes all dates and mints. Uncirculated.

Silver Three Cents. 1851-1873. Includes 1851 O. Dates 1851 to 1857 uncirculated, 1858 to 1873 proofs.

Half Dimes. Philadelphia mint. 1858 to 1873. Proofs.

Dimes. 1858 to 1896. Philadelphia mint. Proofs.

Dimes. 1892 to 1916 Philadelphia mint. Proofs except 1916.

Dimes. 1916 to 1945. Mercury head. All dates and mints. Uncirculated.

Quarter Dollars. 1858 to 1891. Philadelphia mint. Proofs.

Quarter Dollars. 1892 to 1916. Philadelphia mints. Proofs, except 1916.

Quarter Dollars. Washington head. 1932 to 1947. All dates and mints. Uncirculated.

Half Dollars. 1858 to 1891. Philadelphia mint. Proofs.

Half Dollars. 1892 to 1915. Philadelphia mint. Proofs.

Silver Dollars. 1878 to 1904, 1921. Philadelphia mint. Proofs.

Peace Dollars. 1921 to 1935. All dates and mints struck. Uncirculated.

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